



# Community Health Workers in Wisconsin

**COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAM** SUMMER 2021



# Community Health Worker Experiences

**Volunteers @ Milwaukee Food Pantry**

Community Health

**Andre @ We Got This Milwaukee Community Gardens**

Neighborhood Health

**Principal @ Milwaukee-Area School**

Community Health

**Abby @ Great Rivers Pathways Community HUB**

Supporting Community Health Workers

**Sarah @ Paramount Farms**

Migrant Health

**Santos and Maribel @ Local Mexican Grocery Store**

Migrant Health

**Marcia @ UW Population Health Institute**

Supporting Community Health Workers

**Bria @ UniteWI**

Community Health and Supporting Community Health Workers

**Akshay @ Southwest CAP**

Migrant Health





Fun!





# Migrant Health

## Learning Sites:

### **Paramount Calves**

Darlington, WI

### **Local Mexican Grocery Store**

Darlington, WI



### **Barriers to Good Health for Immigrant Healthcare**

- Documentation Status
- Language
- Finances
- Poverty
- Discrimination
- Transportation

### **Opportunities to Reduce Barriers to Good Health**

- Offer Jobs
- Support Health Education
- Expand Mobile Clinic and Health Education Opportunities
- Connect Employers and Employees

**Community Health Workers *maximize existing health resources* by connecting people to quality healthcare and providing trusted education.**



# Inner City Community Health – Milwaukee



## Food Pantry – Milwaukee, WI

Health Empowerment Fund students and Milwaukee-area students spent the day together working at the food pantry. They learned that inner city health issues are complex, but neighborhoods and neighborhood leaders can have a huge impact.



## We Got This Milwaukee – Community Garden

This community garden exemplified how a neighborhood leader can successfully improve health, employment, and safety through community-level action.



## Back to School Fair – Milwaukee, WI

The principal set up a back-to-school fair to boost enrollment after losing 25% of their students due to Covid-19. This neighborhood education source promotes opportunities for health and a better life.

**Working at the neighborhood level can address and simplify complex issues in health, and community health workers are set up to be neighborhood leaders and support local health.**



# Community Health Workers

**Great Rivers Pathways  
Community HUB**

La Crosse, WI

**UW Population Health  
Institute**

**Community health workers improve existing health systems to better serve their community. Their work:**

- ✓ Supports the whole family
- ✓ Is focused on risk reduction – not fees for service
- ✓ Builds critical relationships and trust with community members to promote their health
- ✓ Is structured to address social determinants of health



**Community health workers regularly interact with patients, building strong relationships and working with them to reduce or eliminate health risks.**



# Community Health Workers in Wisconsin



**72% are  
Volunteers**

**47**

47 of Wisconsin's 72  
counties have  
community health  
workers



**86% Women**

The majority of  
community health  
workers are women

**Community health workers  
strategically connect people  
to resources including:**

- Health Systems
- WIC Department
- Job Agencies
- Health Agencies
- YMCA Free Clinic
- Farm Work
- Factory Jobs
- Schools



Community health workers maximize opportunities for health through working at a community level to build relationships with patients, provide necessary education, and address health concerns while reducing or eliminating health risks.

**THE MAJORITY OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS ARE VOLUNTEERS, BUT THEY MUST BE PAID TO EXPAND THEIR IMPACT ON HEALTH AND HAVE RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES.**

